Furthermore, under the scheme for supply of yam at Mill Gate price, the National Handloom Development Corporation had supplied yam worth Rs. 1918.29 lakh during 2001-02 and Rs. 1502.73 lakh during 2002-2003 to the handloom weavers and their organizations in Kamataka.

Under the Decentralized Training Programme, 4 training programmes were sanctioned during 2001-02 and 9 training programmes were sanctioned during 2002-03 for the skill up-gradation of handloom weavers in the State of Kamataka.

Privatisation of Sericulture Industry in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh

3547. SHRIMATIBIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh have mooted privatisation of sericulture industry;

(b) if so, whether corporate bodies have secured the right to enter into contracts with farmers and private silk producers to buy cocoons from primary producers; and

(c) if so, whether this process is being monitored by Central Silk Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIBASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b) Neither State Government has submitted any proposal to change the nature of the sericulture industry. However, two private companies have attempted to establish vertical linkages between farmers and reelers for production, sale and reeling of cocoons. Tidel Silk Technologies Ltd., Hyderabad has submitted a proposal to the Directorate of Sericulture, Andhra Pradesh to set up silk reeling and twisting units to utilize the cocoon produce from 3000 acres of mulberry in a vertical integration of rearers and reelers. Suguna Agro Products *(?)* Ltd., Coimbatore has also planned to take up integrated silk production unit covering both on-farm and non-farm activities.

(c) The implementation of the said project is not being monitored by CSB. CSB has, however, kept itself abreast of these developments and also expressed readiness to extend technical advice.